

NGA Host Letter General

Dear Attendee:

Marsha and I are delighted to welcome you to Mississippi, where a whole new world of hospitality awaits. We use the word “new” because so much of the old Mississippi Gulf Coast was wiped out by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the year we were scheduled to host the National Governors Association’s Annual Meeting. But, we have also learned during the recovery and rebuilding process since the worst natural disaster in American history that patience is a virtue, supplanted only by the excitement we feel at showing off the “new” Gulf Coast for NGA in 2009.

What should you know about the Mississippi Gulf Coast? Several things. First, it has the longest stretch of man-made white sandy beaches in the world, fronted by the Gulf of Mexico, and tailored for family fun from tanning to sailing to watching waterfowl at play. Fishing boats ply the Mississippi Sound every day, so the seafood dishes served in our outstanding restaurants is as fresh as you can find anywhere. Shops with coastal themes and antiques abound. Museums, cultural exhibitions, and art studios beckon. A sightseeing tour of the Pascagoula River Swamp, one of the last pristine waterways in North America, is enlightening and an ecological treat.

While we know much work will be done at the Annual Meeting, we hope when the sessions are over you’ll join us for a terrific lineup of entertainment and recreational events designed to showcase the Gulf Coast approach to enjoying life.

On Friday morning, a golf tournament for Governors and top sponsors will challenge even the best players at Fallen Oak Golf Course, a truly first class course that has been judged one of the finest in America. After the day’s official business is over, our host hotel, the Beau Rivage, features the great Johnny Mathis in concert in the Beau Rivage Theater.

On Saturday, Marsha and I are delighted to host a sponsor reception at the Hard Rock Casino Hotel in Biloxi, followed by an incredibly exciting Mississippi Grammy All-Star Show that will give you a taste of why Mississippi is the “Birthplace of America’s Music.” The show, hosted by actress Joey Lauren Adams, will feature performances by Paul Overstreet, The Williams Brothers, Eddie Cotton, Dorothy Moore, Nannette Workman and the Swedish singing sensation Beatrice.

Sunday morning, Grammy Award-winner, Grand Ole Opry standout and Mississippi’s own Marty Stuart headlines a gospel brunch that is guaranteed to set toes to tapping. At the end of the day, a lavish poolside event honoring the “Great Southern Outdoors” is sure to appeal.

Marsha and I are proud NGA is coming to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for what we know will be a memorable experience. And, remember, as host Governor, I have declared the 2009 NGA Annual Meeting to be a “NO TIES!” affair in recognition of the Gulf Coast’s

causal culture. So, come with ideas, come casual, come hungry, come prepared to be entertained; most of all, come join us for a spectacular occasion.

Sincerely,

Haley Barbour

Governor's Letter to Governors

Dear Governor and Family:

Marsha and I want to be the first to welcome you and your families to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for the 2009 NGA Annual Meeting. We think you'll agree the white sandy beaches, the sparkling waters of the Gulf of Mexico, the freshest seafood and other culinary delights, and diverse options for entertainment, recreational and cultural activities will make for a memorable event.

Here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, a whole new world of hospitality awaits. We use the word "new" because so much of the old Mississippi Gulf Coast was wiped out by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the year we were scheduled to host the National Governors Association's Annual Meeting. But, we have also learned during the recovery and rebuilding process since the worst natural disaster in American history that patience is a virtue, supplanted only by the excitement we feel at showing off the "new" Gulf Coast for NGA in 2009.

What should you know about the Mississippi Gulf Coast? Several things. First, it has the longest stretch of man-made white sandy beach in the world, fronted by the Gulf of Mexico, and tailored for family fun from tanning to sailing to watching waterfowl at play. Fishing boats ply the Mississippi Sound every day, so the seafood dishes served in our outstanding restaurants is as fresh as you can find anywhere. Shops with coastal themes and antiques abound. Museums, cultural exhibitions, and art studios beckon. A sightseeing tour of the Pascagoula River Swamp, one of the last pristine waterways in North America, is enlightening and an ecological treat.

We want you to know about a few special events, starting on Friday, July 17, 2009, with a golf tournament at the truly spectacular Fallen Oak Golf Course just north of Biloxi. Designed by legendary course architect Tom Fazio exclusively for guests of Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, Fallen Oak raises the bar for luxury resort golf in this region. The 18-hole, par-72 championship layout unfolds in a majestic, almost cinematic, invitation to all who love the game.

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Sunday morning, Grammy Award-winner, Grand Ole Opry standout and Mississippi's own Marty Stuart headlines a gospel brunch that is guaranteed to set toes to tapping. Sunday evening, please join us for an invitation-only reception in the Beau Rivage's Camellia Ballroom, and, at the end of the day, a lavish poolside event honoring the "Great Southern Outdoors" is sure to appeal.

Marsha and I are proud NGA is coming to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. And, remember, as host Governor, I have declared the 2009 NGA Annual Meeting to be a "NO TIES!" affair in recognition of the Gulf Coast's casual culture. So, come with ideas, come casual, come hungry, come prepared to be entertained; most of all, come join us for a spectacular occasion.

Sincerely,

Haley Barbour